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## Miss Alma Botts

DECEMBER 26, 2017 2:29 PM \ [LEAVE A COMMENT](#) \ BY COLLIERHERITAGE \ [EDIT](#)

Here is a gem for those researching the genealogy of the BOTTTS or BURBAGE families. It involves J C Collier and is a reflection of his business manner.

J C Collier was a prolific writer, authoring over 100 letters on a busy day. He began his business career in a time before telephone usage was widespread, so written correspondence was the business norm. Even when phones became more common, calls out of Barnesville, Georgia to places of his business interests, such as New York, Chicago, and Boston, were charged as expensive, "long distance" calls. J C hired stenographers who not only typed his outgoing letters, but transcribed and typed incoming mail. Multiple carbon copies of correspondence were made using thin, onion skin paper.

J C typically posted notices of openings for stenographers in distant newspapers. This is a response to one of his ads from Alma Botts of Abbeville, South Carolina. It is dated September 1, 1925. The sincerity and excitement as 19-year old Alma Botts begins her career is obvious.

*Piedmont Development Co.*

*Barnesville, Ga*

*Dear Sir:*

*Having read your ad in the paper for an experienced stenographer, I am writing for you to consider me an applicant for the position.*

*I am 19 years old, five feet, four inches tall and weigh 112 pounds.*

*I am a graduate of Abbeville High School, Abbeville, S.C., and of Greenwood Business College.*

*For the past few months I have worked in the Private Office of the Business College, where I had excellent training in letter writing and general office work. I also have had some experience in a Real*

*Estate Office.*

*I write and read my notes very rapidly and have a good rate of speed with my typeing (sic).*

*I could come to begin work at any time you would desire.*

*I would be willing to begin working at a very reasonable salary. I am very energetic and am not afraid of work.*

*I have worked very hard to secure my education and I must make good.*

*If you would only give me a trial I would do all in my power to render you my best service at all times.*

*Thanking you for any consideration that you may give my application, I am*

*Yours sincerely,*

*(Miss) Alma Botts*

*Address:*

*Miss Alma Botts*

*211 North Main St.*

*Abbeville, S.C.*

Abbeville, S. C.  
Sep. 1, 1925:

Piedmont Development Co.,  
Barnevillle, Ga.

Dear Sir:

Having read your ad in the paper for an experienced stenographer, I am writing for you to consider me an applicant for the position.

I am 19 years old, five feet, four inches tall, and weigh 112 lbs.

I am a graduate of Abbeville High School, Abbeville, S. C., and of Greenwood Business

Always one to make clear his expectations, J C Collier wrote back on September 3, 1925 with details about the job.

Sept. 3rd, 1926.

Miss Alma Bolts,  
211 North Main St.,  
Abbeville, S. C.

Dear Miss Bolts:

We have your letter of September 1st and note same carefully. We have not as yet filled the place as stenographer in my office.

First, we want a girl who is well educated, knows how to spell---and above all must be able to take dictation with sufficient amount of speed so as then to transcribe same correctly. We want a young lady who is willing to work--get down to the office at time --and keep it in shape--and to take an interest in her work. The salary we would pay at the start would be about \$60.00 per month. We do pay our stenographers after they are trained \$75.00. Board here will cost you \$30.00. Of course, if we traded with you it would be with the understanding that you could do what you say you can in your letter because we haven't time to train a girl. We get down to the office in the mornings at 7:45, some times a bit earlier. The stenographer is expected to keep the office, desk, etc., and if we have any loafing to do we do it in the heat of the day. I merely mention this to let you know how we work. If you are interested on this basis it may be well for you to send me a night telegram upon receipt of this letter. We would then advise you.

Very respectfully,

PIEDMONT DEVELOPMENT CO.

JOC.K

To which Miss Botts responded in a September 4 a telegram with notice of her acceptance.

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
TELEGRAM	
DAY LETTER	BLUE
NIGHT MESSAGE	NITE
NIGHT LETTER	N.L.

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. C. STRINGS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
TELEGRAM	
DAY LETTER	BLUE
NIGHT MESSAGE	NITE

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

18X NC 7

GREENWOOD SOCAR 112P SEP 4 1925

J C COLLIER

PIEDMONT DEVELOPMENT CO BARNESVILLE GA

WILL ACCEPT POSITION WIRE WHEN TO COME

ALMA BOTTS

1252P

And on September 5, she sent J C Collier a telegram of her expected arrival time.

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
TELEGRAM	
DAY LETTER	BLUE
NIGHT MESSAGE	NITE
NIGHT LETTER	N.L.

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

# WESTERN UNION



## TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
TELEGRAM	
DAY LETTER	BLUE
NIGHT MESSAGE	NITE
NIGHT LETTER	N.L.

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

The filing time as shown in the date line on full rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.  
Received at

15X NC 14

ABBEVILLE SOCAR 400P SEP 5 1925

J C COLLIER

PIEDMONT DEVELOPMENT CO BARNESVILLE GA

WILL ARRIVE ATLANTA 745 HUNDAY AM WILL CATCH FIRST TRAIN FOR BARNESVILLE

ALMA BOTTS

309P

Further information regarding Alma Botts was not available in J C Collier's papers. In attempt to reach any of her family, the following was found in an online genealogy site. It appears Miss Botts had returned to Abbeville by 1926 when she married Harold Burbage. Her obituary states she was the last member of her immediate family. This post is made hoping some extended family member

will find the story of this young lady.

12/15/2015

Harold P. Burbage (1899-1965) - Genealogy.com

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# HAROLD P. BURBAGE (1899-1965)/ALMA R. BOTTS (1906-1999) - SOUTH CAROLINA

By Brian Scott November 22, 2004 at 06:44:07

I am looking for any information on the following family

HAROLD P. BURBAGE, SR. was born September 03, 1899 in Abbeville County, South Carolina, and died October 1965. He married ALMA R. BOTTS 1926 in South Carolina, daughter of THOMAS BOTTS and JENNIE MCCORD. She was born July 07, 1906 in Abbeville County, South Carolina, and died March 06, 1999 in Abbeville County, South Carolina.

Notes for HAROLD P. BURBAGE, SR.:

Harold P. and Alma Botts Burbage are found in the 1930 Census, Charleston County, St. Paul's Township. Living with them was their son, Harold P. Jr. Harold Sr.'s occupation was listed as physician.

The Social Security Death Index states that Harold's social security card and number were issued in Mississippi in 1951. It does not state his last known residence. His place of death is not known.

More About HAROLD P. BURBAGE, SR.:

Title (Facts Pg): Doctor

Notes for ALMA R. BOTTS:

Obituary Notice

The Anderson Independent-Mail

March 7, 1999

Alma Burbage

Abbeville, SC - Alma Botts Burbage, 92, of Abbeville Nursing Home,  
<http://www.genealogy.com/forum/surnames/topics/burbage43/>

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